formulated under the Central Plan 1995-96 in the country;

(b) if so, the State-wise details thereof; and

(c) how the scheme is going to be implemented in Madhya Pradesh and what are the Block-wise details of the employment generated?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) to (c) According to the information furnished by the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment, Employment Assurance Scheme has been formulated to provide assured employment for 100 days of unskilled manual work to the rural poor who are in need of employment and seeking it. Central and State assistance under the scheme is directly released to District Rural Development Agencies. Block-wise action plans are prepared and implemented after approval by the Deputy Commissioner concerned.

Central assistance under the scheme is released in two or more instalments as per demand. However, the first instalment under the scheme has been released to the States. State-wise details are at Annexure *See* [Appendix 174, Annexure No-24]

The scheme is being implemented in 297 blocks of 37 districts in Madhya Pradesh. The scheme will be implemented in accordance with the guidelines laid down by the Government of India.

खाद्यान्नों की आवश्यकता

*120 **श्री रामजी लाल:** क्या **खाद्य** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) सरकार ने बढ़ती हुई जनसंख्या को देखते हुए, देश में इस वर्ष खाद्यान्नों की आवश्यता और उत्पादन के बारे में क्या अनुमान लगाया है;

(ख) सन् 2000 तक देश में कितने खाद्यान्न की आवश्यकता होगी और देश की उत्पादन क्षमता को देखते हुए सरकार खाद्यान्नों की कमी को किस प्रकार पूरा करने का विचार रखती है;

(ग) क्या सरकार खाद्यान्नों का आयात करेगी अथवा देश की खेती योग्य भूमि को अधिक उपजाऊ बनाएगी ताकि उत्पादन क्षमता को और बढ़ाया जा सके; और

(घ) इस संबंध में उठाए गए कदमों का ब्यौरा क्या है?

खाद्य मंत्री (श्री अजित सिंह): (क) इस समय बीज, पशु-चारे की आवश्यकताओं और बर्बादी की हिसाब में लेकर देश में कुल 182.27 मिलियन मीटरी टन खाद्यान्नों की आवश्यकता होने का अनुमान है। इसके प्रति 1994-95 के दौरान खाद्यान्नों का कुल उत्पादन लगभग 189.77 मिलियन मीटरी टन होने का अनुमान है।

(ख) से (घ) सन् 2000 ईस्वी तक खाद्यान्नों की मांग 2.5.—2.7 प्रतिशत प्रतिवर्ष की दर से बढ़ने की सम्भावना है, जो जनसंख्या और प्रतिव्यक्ति आय में होने वाली वृद्धि पर निर्भर करेगी। सन् 2000 ईस्वी तक कुल खाद्यान्नों की घरेलू आवश्यकता 205 से 208 मिलियन मीटरी टन के बीच होने की सम्भावना है। खाद्यान्नों की मांग में होने वाली वृद्धि को पूरा करने के लिए सरकार देश में खाद्यान्नों के उत्पादन और उत्पादकता में वृद्धि करने के लिए विभिन्न फसल उत्पादन उन्मुख कार्यक्रम लागू कर रही है। हाल ही में, अनाज पर आधारित फसल उत्पादन की सभी स्कीमों में इसलिए संशोधन किया गया है ताकि फसलों के उत्पादन में वृद्धि करने के लिए मस्यक्रम योजना पर आधारित प्रणाली अपनाई जा सके।

Amendment of Consumer Protection Act

759. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of recommendations made by the Consumer Education and Research Centre for amending the Consumer Protection Act;

(b) whether these recommendations are being examined by any working group set up for the purpose; and

(c) if so, the terms and conditions of the working group and the time limit stipulated for the working group to submit its recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) The Suggestions mainly relate to enlarging the scope of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 to make it more effective for protecting the interest of consumers;

(b) and (c) The Suggestions have already been examined by a Working Group on the Amendment of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 which was constituted under the aegis of the Central Consumer Protection Council. The Working Group has since submitted its report.

Representation of West Godavari Tobacco Farmers on Tobacco Board

760. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there was a demand for representation for West Godavari tobacco farmers on the recently constituted Tobacco Board;

(b) whether it is also a fact that tobacco farmers from West Godavari and other areas have never got representation on the Tobacco Board;

(c) whether Government propose to consider forming an exclusive tobacco growers advisory body; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to remove the grievance of non-representation of tobacco farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Tobacco Board Act provides for appoint of upto 6 members on the Board to represent tobacco growers. Such tobacco growers' representatives have been appointed on the Board.

Supply of Commodities under Subsidised Rates

761. SHRIMATI ANANDIBEN JETHABHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified some blocks in Gujarat, Rajasthan and Maharashtra under the Prime Minister's Scheme in backward/tribal areas for providing commodities at subsidised rates;

(b) if so, the details of the blocks identified and number of items provided at subsidised rates so far; and

(c) what steps are being taken to increase the supply of levy sugar and other items to these States under PDS?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) and (b) The Central Government has identified 97,122 and 114 Blocks in the States of Gujarat, Rajasthan and Maharashtra respectively to be covered under the Revamped Public Distribution System (RPDS) in consultation with the State Government. Central Government allocates rice and wheat at Central Issue Prices (CIP) which are Rs. 50/- per quintal less than the CIP for normal PDS areas, to States/UTs for distribution in the RPDS areas.

(c) Levy sugar allocations are generally made on a uniform norm of 425 grams per capita per month for the projected population as on 1.10.1986. Monthly allocation of other PDS items like rice, wheat and imported edible oil to State/UTs are made after taking into account the availability in the Central Pool, demands received from States/UTs, inter-se requirements of States/UTs and seasonal factors. In view of the comfortable stock position of foodgrains, reasonable requests for additional allocations of foodgrains have been allowed. Due to constraints of levy sugar